Tripartite treaty among India, Russia and Ukraine

†1716. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Ukraine, Shri Leonid Kuchma has expressed his desire for a tripartite treaty among India, Russia and Ukraine during his recent four days visit to India;

(b) if so, whether India has since signed the said tripartite treaty;

(c) the areas identified for mutual cooperation under the said treaty; and

(d) the comprehensive details of the extradition treaty and the agreements on defence, legal assistance in criminal cases and developing trade relations already arrived at or proposed to be arrived between India and Ukraine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The proposal concerns joint production of AN-70 transport aircraft by India, Russia and Ukraine.

(d) During the visit of H.E. Mr. Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, to India from 2-5 October, 2002, the two sides signed three documents. The main areas covered under these documents are as follows:

1. Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and Ukraine: Under this agreement, the two countries agreed to extradite to each other any person, except its own national, who is accused or charged with or convicted of an offence, except an offence of political character. The agreement also deals with the procedure for extradition, the grounds on which extradition can be refused, the offences which will not be considered as being of political character, etc.

2. Treaty between the Republic of India and Ukraine on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters: Under this agreement, the two sides agreed to grant each other the widest measure of mutual legal assistance. The agreement also deals with the terms and conditions of the assistance.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Ukraine on Merchant Shipping: This agreement deals with cooperation in the field of merchant shipping.

Missing Indian employees in Saudi Arabia

1717. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of missing Indian Employees in Saudi Arabia with the Indian Embassy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken by Indian Embassy with the Saudi Arabia Government, in tracing the missing Indian employees;

(d) whether Government have set up any vigilance over the agents in India and Saudi Arabia, who lure Indians for lucrative jobs and ultimately cheat them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The number of persons "missing" over the last three years as reported to the Embassy/Consulate in Saudi Arabia, is as follows:

Year	Cases Reported	Cases Settled
2000-01	101	38
2001-02	105	39
2002-03 (upto November, 2002)	73	15

(c) Our Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia took up these cases with the Saudi authorities, their employers and where required, the recruiting agents in India. As a result of these efforts, some of the missing persons were located and made to establish contact with their family members in India. In most cases, it is a deliberate decision on the part of the individuals not to communicate with their families for personal reasons.